banks for plugging the loop-holes in their systems and procedures. No separate research programme to locate vulnerable spots in banks' functioning is, therefore, necessary.

Income-tax and Weath Tax Cases pending in Courts

1723. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of prosecution cases under the income-tax and wealth-tax acts pending in various courts till March, 1986 was 9,306;

(b) if so, what was the figure in March, 1988; and

(c) what steps Government are taking for early and speedy disposal of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) As on 31st March, 1986, 9303 prosecution cases under the direct taxes enactments were pending in various courts.

(b) The pendency as on 31-3-1988 was 21,093.

(c) Special Courts for trying economic offences have been set up at Hyderabad, Bangalore, Muzaffarpur, Ernakulam, Indore, Cuttack, Jaipur, Madras Madurai, Allahabad, Kanpur and Delhi. The State Governments of Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal have been requested to similarly set up Special Courts, or earmark certain courts, for exclusively dealing with economic offences.

Mobilisation of Financial Resources in Punjab to Meet Plan Finance

1724. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government continue to insist on Punjab Government to mobilise resources for the current year's plan;

(b) whether due to terrorist activities, the Punjab Government is not in a position to raise resources;

(c) whether in view of the existing financial constraints, Central Government propose to relax its policies; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (d) After discussions with representaties of the State Government, the annual Plan outlay for the current year has been fixed at Rs. 700 crores. During the current year, the Central Government would provide Rs. 58.11 crores to Punjab as Central assistance for Plan schemes on the basis of their entitlement. In addition, keeping in view the extraordinary situation in Punjab, a special term loan of Rs. 650 crores would be provided to the State Government for funding the said Plan. Having regard to the total requirement of funds for Plan and Non-Plan expenditure, it was agreed after discussions with representatives of Punjab Govt. that the State Govt. would raise Rs. 50 crores through additional resource mobilisation measures. Action in this regard is, therefore, to be taken by the State Government.

Cracks Developed in Foundations of Badrinath Shrine Complex

1725. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, according to a report prepared by the Environment Directorate the

Alakananda river on whose banks the Badrinath Shrine is situated has caused cracks in some other buildings also adjoining the temple; and

(b) whether cracks have developed in the foundations of Badrinath Shrine Complex; if so, what measures have been taken to repair them?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Norm for Continuation of Posts

1726. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) whether norms have been prescribed for continuation of posts from year to year;

(b) whether there has been any violation of these norms in respect of continuation of posts during the past three years in respect of Textile Training posts in the office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts); and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and action taken or proposed to be taken to rectify the same and for fixing responsibility?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Only those posts have been contained which fulfil the norms prescribed by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Pollution of River Godavari

1727. SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government are aware of the fact that severe pollution of river Godavari at Nasik Road (Maharashtra) is caused by huge quantity of ash being thrown into the river bed from the Thermal Power Station, Ekalahre (Nasik Road); and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken so far to check this pollution?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The thremal power station at Ekalahre has got arrangements for treatment and disposal of effluents as prescribed by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. The decanted water from the slurry settled in an ash pond joins the river Godavari and has been found to conform to the pollution control standards set by the State Pollution Control Board. However, the villagers often break the well of the ash bund for abtaining water for irrigation purposes and this causes the ash-mixed water to enter the Godavari. The State Pollution Control Board has directed the Maharashtra State Electricity Board to keep a close watch on the bund of the ash pond so that such incidents are prevented.

Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Pollution of River Krishna

1728. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the action plan for prevention and control of pollution of river Krishna and its tributaries prepared jointly by the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra has been received; and

(b) if so, what action the Central Government propose to take thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.